

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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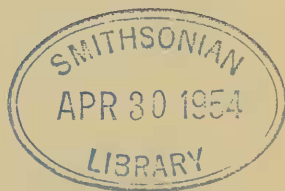
FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 219

Addition to the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*
of *Megachile* Latreille, 1802, with *Apis centuncularis*
Linnaeus, 1758, as type species (Class Insecta, Order
Hymenoptera)



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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OPINION 219

ADDITION TO THE "OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY" OF "MEGACHILE" LATREILLE 1802, WITH "APIS CENTUNCULARIS" LINNAEUS 1758, AS TYPE SPECIES (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER HYMENOPTERA)

RULING :—(1) No type selection within the meaning of Rule (g) in Article 30 was made for the nominal genus *Megachile* Latreille, 1802 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera), by Latreille in 1810 (*Consid. gén. Crust. Arach. Ins.*), and the first valid type selection for this genus under the foregoing Rule is that of *Apis centuncularis* Linnaeus, 1758, by Curtis in 1828.

(2) The generic name *Megachile* Latreille, 1802 (gender of name : feminine), with the above species as type species, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 651.

(3) The specific name *centuncularis* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Apis centuncularis*, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 29.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 16th August 1937, the late Professor A. D. Imms (*President*) and Professor O. W. Richards (*Secretary*), Royal Entomological Society of London, formally communicated to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature Part 5 of the work entitled *The Generic Names of British Insects*, published two days earlier, intimating that the Council of the Society concurred in the recommendations set forth in the foregoing Part and commended those recommendations to the favourable consideration of the International Commission. The above Part con-

tained a Report by the Hymenoptera Sub-Committee¹ of the Society's Committee on Generic Nomenclature² setting out the names of the genera of Hymenoptera Aculeata represented in the British fauna. Attached to the Sub-Committee's Report was a detailed survey of the problems involved which had been prepared for the Sub-Committee by Dr. O. W. Richards, one of its members. The Report contained recommendations regarding seventeen generic names and two specific names. Among the former was included the case of the name *Megachile* Latreille, 1802, with which the present *Opinion* is concerned. The Sub-Committee's recommendations in relation to this and other names were set out in a schedule, prepared by Dr. Richards, annexed to its Report. The proposal in regard to the present case was lettered (m) and appeared on pages 91—92 in the Report as published. The applications submitted in the Sub-Committee's Report were later, for purposes of convenience, treated as separate cases, though at the time of their receipt they were all given the same Registered Number—Z.N.(S.)133—in the Secretariat of the Commission. The application submitted in the present case was as follows :—

Proposed suspension of the "Règles" for "*Megachile*" Latreille, 1802 (Class Insecta, Order Hymenoptera)

By R. B. BENSON, M.A.

(Assistant Keeper in the Department of Entomology, British Museum (Natural History)),

CH. FERRIÈRE

(Imperial Institute of Entomology, London),

and

O. W. RICHARDS, D.Sc.

(Imperial College of Science and Technology, London)

Latreille (1802, *Hist. nat. Fourmis* : 434) published the genus *Megachile*, including a number of species. Latreille (1810, *Consid. génér.* : 439) fixed the type as *Apis muraria* Retzius, 1783, though

¹ At the time of the submission of the foregoing Report the composition of the Hymenoptera Sub-Committee was as follows :—R. B. Benson, M.A. ; Ch. Ferrière ; O. W. Richards, D.Sc.

² The composition of the Committee on Generic Nomenclature was the same at this time as at the date of the submission of Part 4 of the *Generic Names of British Insects*, and has been given in footnote 2 to *Opinion* 211, which deals with a recommendation submitted in that Part.

the name of the type-species was followed by certain other names (including *Apis centuncularis* Linnaeus, 1758), prefixed by the word "*ejusdem*".

Curtis (1828, *Brit. Ent.* 5 : plate 218) designated *Apis centuncularis* Linnaeus, 1758, as the type of *Megachile*.

Lepeletier (1841, *Hist. nat. Ins. Hymén.* 2 : 309) described a genus *Chalicodoma* of which the type was fixed by Girard (1879, *Traité d'Ent.* 2 : 778) as *Apis muraria* Retzius, 1783.³

Hymenopterists have almost universally used the generic name *Chalicodoma* for *Apis muraria* and its allies and *Megachile* for *Apis centuncularis* and its allies. A large literature, both taxonomic and bionomic, has grown up round this usage. The two groups are generically distinct, or, at least, form very distinct subgenera. In our opinion the transference of the name *Megachile* to the group of which *Apis muraria* Retzius, 1783, is the type would cause far more confusion than uniformity. If the type-fixation of Latreille (1810) were set aside and that of Curtis (1828) upheld, this difficulty would be avoided.

We are therefore of the opinion that in the exercise of the Plenary Powers conferred on them by the International Congress, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should as soon as possible take the steps laid down by the Congress for the promulgation of an *Opinion* to the following effect :—

The name *Megachile* Latreille, 1802 (type : *Apis centuncularis* Linnaeus, 1758) be added to the *Official List of Generic Names*. The designation by Latreille (1810, *Consid. génér.* : 439) of *Apis muraria* Retzius, 1783,³ as the type is, therefore, to be set aside and the designation by Curtis (1828, *Brit. Ent.* 5 : plate 218) of *Apis centuncularis* Linnaeus, 1758, is to be upheld.⁴

³ There appears to be some doubt as to the real identity of the bee described by Retzius as *Apis muraria*. Until this question is settled, it is suggested that the bee referred to above be regarded as *Chalicodoma muraria* Lepeletier (1841, *Hist. nat. Ins. Hym.* 2 : 309). The position of the genera *Megachile* and *Chalicodoma* is not affected by the name ultimately shown to be the right one for *C. muraria*.

⁴ The above is an extract from the First Report of the Hymenoptera Sub-Committee of the Committee on Generic Nomenclature of the Royal Entomological Society of London. At that time that Committee was composed as follows :—Sir Guy Marshall, K.C.M.G., F.R.S. (*Chairman*), Dr. K. G. Blair, Dr. F. W. Edwards, Mr. Francis Hemming, C.M.G., C.B.E., Dr. O. W. Richards, Mr. N. D. Riley and Professor W. A. F. Balfour-Browne (*Hon. Secretary*). On receiving the Sub-Committee's Report, the Committee on Generic Nomenclature, in their Fifth Report, recommended the Council of the Royal Entomological Society of London to transmit the Hymenoptera Sub-Committee's recommendations to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature for favourable consideration. This recommendation was approved by the Council of the Society and, on the publication of the Committee's Fifth Report on 14th August, 1937, the Sub-Committee's recommendations were forwarded to the International Commission by the Council of the Society.

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. It had not been found possible to advance the consideration of the present case by the time that the outbreak of war in Europe in September 1939 led to the evacuation of the records of the International Commission from London to the country as a precaution against the risk of destruction through air raids. The Secretariat in London was re-opened in 1942 and steps were immediately taken to establish the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* as a means for bringing to the attention of zoologists applications submitted to the International Commission for decision. Work was at once started on outstanding applications with a view to arranging for their publication in the newly established *Bulletin*. When in 1944 the present case was being prepared for the printer, Mr. Hemming came to the conclusion that the end desired by the applicants could be attained without the use by the International Commission of its Plenary Powers, for the applicants had not been aware of the decision taken by the Commission at Lisbon in 1935 and later embodied in *Opinion* 136 (1939, *Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* 2 : 13—20) to restrict the acceptance, as type selections, of the citations given by Latreille in 1810 (*Consid. gén. Crust. Arach. Ins.*) to those cases where, unlike the present, Latreille cited the name of a single species only. After communicating with the applicants, Mr. Hemming annexed the following explanatory note to the application in this case before sending it to the printer :—

Supplementary Note by the Secretary to the International Commission : The case of *Megachile* Latreille, 1802, is exactly parallel to that of *Formica* Linnaeus, 1758, for the difficulties apprehended by the applicants have been completely eliminated by the publication of the Commission's *Opinion* 136, clarifying *Opinion* 11, as it is now seen that Latreille in 1810 (*Consid. gén.*) did not make a valid designation of the type of *Megachile* Latreille. In consequence the designation by Curtis (1828) of *Apis centuncularis* Linnaeus, 1758, as the type of this genus is valid and the currently accepted usage is correct. Thus, the name *Megachile* Latreille, 1802, can now be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*, without the prior use by the Commission of their Plenary Powers to suspend the *Règles Internationales*. (int'd) F.H. 11th August 1944.

3. The present application, with Mr. Hemming's annexed note, was sent to the printer in October 1944, but, owing to difficulties arising from paper rationing, shortage of labour at the printing

works and similar causes, publication did not actually take place until 28th February 1947 (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 211).

4. The publication of the present application in the *Bulletin* elicited a letter of support from the late Dr. Th. Mortensen (*Universitetets Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen*) who on 8th April 1947, wrote :—"The proposals by Benson, Ferrière and Richards should be accepted".

III.—THE DECISION BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

5. The present application was considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at the Thirteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 1730 hours. The following is an extract from the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission setting out the decision reached by it at the foregoing meeting in regard to this case (Paris Session, 13th Meeting, Conclusion 45) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 411—413) :—

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

- (1) that no type selection within the meaning of Rule (g) in Article 30 having been made for the genus *Megachile* Latreille, 1802, by Latreille in 1810 (*Consid. gén. Crust. Arach. Ins.*) under the *Règles*, the type species of this genus was *Apis centuncularis* Linnaeus, 1758, that species being the first of the originally included species to have been duly so selected under Rule (g) in Article 30 (by Curtis, 1828), and therefore that no question arose of the Commission having to use their Plenary Powers to designate that species as the type species of the foregoing genus ;

- (2) to place the generic name *Megachile* Latreille, 1802 (type species, by selection by Curtis, 1828 : *Apis centuncularis* Linnaeus, 1758) on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* ;
- (3) to place the specific trivial name *centuncularis* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Apis centuncularis*) on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* ;
- (4) to render an *Opinion* recording the decisions specified in (1) to (3) above.

6. The following are the original references for the names which appear in the decision set out in the immediately preceding paragraph :—

centuncularis, *Apis* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 575
Megachile Latreille, 1802, *Hist. nat. Fourmis* : 434

The reference to the selection by Curtis of *Apis centuncularis* Linnaeus, 1758, as the type species of *Megachile* Latreille, 1802, is : Curtis, 1828, *Brit. Ent.* **5** : pl. 218.

7. The gender of the generic name *Megachile* Latreille, 1802, referred to in the decision quoted in paragraph 5 above, is feminine.

8. The decision taken in the present case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Fifth Meeting held on 26th July 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **5** : 109).

9. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boschma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ; Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

10. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

11. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

12. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

13. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion Two Hundred and Nineteen (219)* of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twenty-Ninth day of November, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Three.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING

